

# Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

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# *How do you contribute with your work in your organization to climate change adaptation activities?*

- **Identification, collection, discussing and sharing** with State Forest Management Organizations as well as outside of EUSTAFOR the **most relevant and up-to-date knowledge** about the role of forests and sustainable forest management in climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Compilation of available knowledge in form of **policy recommendations** in order to provide EUSTAFOR and its members necessary argumentation with a view to **influencing** relevant policy processes
- **Analysis of the existing climate change policy frameworks** both internationally and in the EU as regards their impact on European forests and their daily management
- Suggesting ways of **engaging in the policy discussion** or finding alliances suitable for EUSTAFOR

# *Please describe a successful example of climate change adaptation measures implemented by your organization*

Many different practical examples from our member organisations, but overriding focus is on active, sustainable forest management involving:

- Planting mixed, climate-resilient and site-adapted tree species
- Promoting close-to-nature forest management
- Timely tending and thinning operations, with the aim of well-structured, stable, climate-fit and productive forests fully harnessing the growth and carbon sequestration potential
- Minimizing risks and pest and diseases through pro-active risk management and timely pest control and salvage cuttings
- Replacing energy-intensive materials and fossil fuels with wood products and wood energy
- Accompanying, applied research and monitoring

# *Does your organization have a strategy on adaptation of forests to climate change?*

- EUSTAFOR does not (yet) has an own climate adaptation strategy, but has developed position papers on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- EUSTAFOR member organisations are usually guided by national strategies developed by their respective Ministries
- Many EUSTAFOR members have their own company strategies and practical guidelines which include climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations and put the national adaptation polices into practice

# *What are major challenges related to climate change and forests in your organization?*

- Uncertainty about the real climate change effects (extent, spatial distribution) and about the real reaction/ adaptation potential of tree species and provenances
- Long-term production intervals in forestry
- High game density limits the efforts of natural regeneration and successful establishment of climate-resilient, site-adapted tree species in mixed stands
- New climate change policies (such as EC's LULUCF proposal) may hinder active, sustainable forest management
- Convincing the civil society and NGOs about the need for active, climate-smart forest management, in contrast to carbon conservation in existing forests only
- Negative economic implications of promoting climate-resilient, mixed stands
- Economic losses caused by climate change-induced natural disasters and insect/pest outbreaks